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TO: Kenneth Reece COMPANY



## UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of Bjarke de Jager Gottfredsen )

Application No. 09/674,714 )

Group Art Unit: 2876

Filed: December 19, 2000 )

Examiner: Jamara A. Franklin

For: Mouse Pad Comprising a Card  
Read/Write Device )

TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800

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*Rule 1.131 Declaration of Bjarke de Jager Gottfredsen*

I, Bjarke de Jager Gottfredsen, am the inventor of the device covered by the above-referenced application. I declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true, and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true.

1. The above-referenced patent application relates to a mouse pad which includes a card read/write device. I first conceived of this device in April 1997 while living in Hørsholm Denmark. (Unless otherwise noted, all events described in this declaration occurred in Hørsholm, Denmark).

2. At the time I conceived of this invention, I was working on another product, called SCARD, which required some means for network users to easily upload and download programs to and from their smart cards. Therefore, I needed to provide a convenient and low cost PC smart card reader for this product, and came up with the idea of a mouse pad card read/write device. I call this invention the "ScardPad."

3. After conceiving of the device, I then began working to build a prototype of it. By May 1997, I built three fully operating first generation prototypes of the device.

Although they were not integrated with a mouse pad, these first generation devices were operable smart card read/write units, and were designed to be adapted for use with a mouse pad."

I have saved one of these first generation prototypes, and have attached as Exhibit 1 to this declaration a photograph I recently took showing the surviving prototype. The surviving prototype is currently at my home in Johannesburg, South Africa. After I got the prototype to work, I ordered smart cards for testing of the device on May 22, 1997. (See Exh. 2).

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4. In June or July of 1997, I built a second generation reader using a real printed circuit board instead of the prototype boards. Otherwise, this second generation product was the same as the product described above. This reader was built into a mouse pad by using 2 thin mouse pads and a thick mouse pads. The thick mouse pad would serve as the middle layer in which I cut a hole to fit the card reader along the edge. The thin mouse pads served as the top and the bottom layer. I did not use Surface Mount Design ("SMD") components in this prototype so the reader had a higher profile than later prototypes. I showed this prototype to family and friends in August, 1997 including my former business partner, Poul Lyngsø. (See accompanying Lyngsø declaration). Each person to whom I showed the prototype had an obligation to maintain the confidentiality of the project. All I had to do next was reduce the profile, which was possible in production simply using SMD components instead. This second generation prototype was later disassembled (I think in 1999) long after we had built a much nicer looking prototype, and therefore I no longer have it in my possession.

5. Around October 1997, I hired a consultant, Jerry Nielsen, to help me write a business plan, to raise money, to develop and market the product, and to seek patent protection. In November 1997, a very rough first draft of the business plan was completed (Exhs. 3a & 3b), and the ScardPad was introduced in this business plan as one of a number of possible peripheral devices for the SCARD. We also decided to focus our efforts exclusively on ScardPad and we contacted DTI Innovation ("DTI"), which is a Danish Government agency that provides funding and development resources for new technology companies. When we presented the product to DTI, DTI asked for a final business plan, which we completed on February 19, 1998. The plan was later amended on March 26, 1998. (Exhs. 4a & 4b). The plan describes the ScardPad invention. (Exhs. 4a & 4b)

6. On our behalf, DTI contacted a Danish patent firm, "Hoffman Bang & Boutard," and sent to this firm a letter on December 16, 1997 briefly disclosing the invention, and proposing an initial meeting. (Exhs. 5a & 5b). I then had a meeting with Mr. Ole Jagtboe from Hoffman Bang & Boutard, and on December 18, 1997 Mr. Jagtboe sent a letter to DTI confirming the meeting and suggesting the filing of a patent application on the invention. (Exhs. 6a & 6b).



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7. I have attached true and correct copies of the following documents:

Exh.	Document Description	Approx. Date
1	Photographs of original prototype.	May, 1997
2	Receipt for purchase of smart cards for testing of the device.	May 22, 1997
3a	Draft SCARD Company business plan (in Danish)	November, 1997
3b	Translated excerpts from Exh. 3a relating to invention	November, 1997
4a	Final SCARD Company business plan (in Danish)	February 16, 1998 (as amended March 26, 1998)
4b	Translated excerpts from Exh. 4a relating to invention	February 16, 1998 (as amended March 26, 1998)
5a	Letter from Danish governmental agency DTI Innovation to patent lawyer Hoffman-Bang, with disclosure of invention.	December 16, 1997
5b	Translation of Exh. 5a	December 16, 1997
6a	Letter from Hoffman-Bang to DTI Innovation regarding invention.	December 18, 1997
6b	Translation of 6a.	December 18, 1997

Executed this 10 day of October, 2002 at Johannesburg, South Africa

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States of America that the foregoing is true and correct. I understand that willful false statements and the like are punishable by fine or imprisonment or both, and may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issuing thereon.



Bjarke de Jager Gottfredsen